

1 What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for scheduling development planning for a plurality of products,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving as input a list of a plurality of products to be developed, and a list
4 of required completions dates for the development of each product;

5 receiving as input one project definition for each product, the project
6 definitions each defining a plurality of tasks required to complete the project, and
7 resources required to complete each task, at least one of the tasks for at least
8 one project requiring a material to be provided by an outside party;

9 receiving as input a list of available resources, each resource having a
10 capacity as a function of time;

11 receiving as input a list of materials available from outside parties, and a
12 schedule of availability of such materials; and

13 generating a schedule including all tasks for all projects, such schedule
14 allocating all resources such that each resource is allocated at a level less than
15 or equal to its capacity, such schedule also scheduling tasks that require
16 materials from outside parties at a time when such materials will be available.

1 2. The method of Claim1, wherein each available resource is assigned an
2 ability level, and wherein each task requiring a resource specifies a minimum
3 ability level to be used for that task, and wherein the generated schedule
4 allocates, to all tasks, resources that have an ability level at least as high as the
5 specified minimum ability level.

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1 3. A system for scheduling development planning for a plurality of products,
2 comprising:

3 a list of a plurality of products to be developed, and a list of required
4 completions dates for the development of each product;

5 a project definition for each product, the project definitions each defining a
6 plurality of tasks required to complete the project, and resources required to
7 complete each task, at least one of the tasks for at least one project requiring a
8 material to be provided by an outside party;

9 a list of available resources, each resource having a capacity as a function
10 of time;

11 a list of materials available from outside parties, and a schedule of
12 availability of such materials; and

13 a scheduler for generating a schedule including all tasks for all projects,
14 such schedule allocating all resources such that each resource is allocated at a
15 level less than or equal to its capacity, such schedule also scheduling tasks that
16 require materials from outside parties at a time when such materials will be
17 available.

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1 4. The system of Claim3, wherein each available resource is assigned an
2 ability level, and wherein each task requiring a resource specifies a minimum
3 ability level to be used for that task, and wherein the generated schedule
4 allocates, to all tasks, resources that have an ability level at least as high as the
5 specified minimum ability level.

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